

**STATEWIDE COUNCIL FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2005**

Members Present: John Basham, Jimmy Duff, Derrick Meadows, Mike Sanders, Beth Smith, Carl Metz, Marlene Huff, George Warren, Darrell Mattingly, Richard Smith, Kim Egan, Angela Slaton, Lisa Durham, Roland Blahnik, David Allgood

Staff Present: Allison Jessee, Ralph Clark, Barry Newill, Greg Willett, Dave Matheis, Nanci Shelden, Mindy Yates, Veeta Erwin, Wade Bailey, Brad Mills

Interpreters: Tom King and Tara Eversole

Guests: Carmen Watts

Marlene called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Executive Director's Report: Beth reported on the activities of the agency. Beth reported that the agency had 4,995 positive employment outcomes this year. This is phenomenal since we did not expect that we would even reach last year's total. We keep sitting the bar higher. Kentucky was one of 11 states to meet all standards and indicators. The agency was successful in getting the reclassifications approved for counselors. The agency went back to Commission Owens and requested increases for the career counselors who did not have CRCs, but have been performing the duties of counselors with CRCs. This was approved and those staff received the increase also. Appointments have not been made. Beth reported that she has had several communications with the staff at the Office for Boards and Commissions. The Deputy Director informed Beth that our appointments will be on the agenda of the next meeting and that hopefully SCVR's would be made at that time. Beth will continue to check with the Commission on the status of the appointments. Beth attended the CSAVR Conference. It was an excellent meeting. She attended the Human Resource committee meeting and led the director's meeting. Bobby Silverstein was the keynote speaker and his presentation was quite impressive and very motivating. Susie Edwards and Beth Smith attended the Region IV Retention and Recruitment meeting in Atlanta. All states are concerned about these staff issues. One suggestion was to have a recruiter on staff to actively recruit (attending job fairs at colleges and universities, etc.). The University of Kentucky is open to starting a bachelor's program in counseling. Beth again thanked everyone for continuing to serve on the council and wished everyone a happy holiday. Roland expressed concern that the agency will be able to fully implement the CSPD requirements of the state plan if staff receive the increase in salaries without obtaining their CRC. Staff have had plenty of time to obtain their CRC. Beth responded that the agency supports full implementation of CSPD and that the other states are experiencing difficulty in meeting their goals also. The Commission on Certification of Rehabilitation is working on creating a new category of eligibility for qualifying to take the CRC exam. This will allow the agency's career counselors the opportunity to obtain the CRC.

Budget Report: Ralph Clark gave an update/presentation on the budget. PowerPoint hand out is attached.

OVR Issues: No other issues or comments.

Claudia Ernhardt gave a presentation on the KYBLN. Brad Mills gave a presentation on Transition.

Viewed the CDPCRC Video.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes as distributed. Metz/Allgood. Motion passed.

Chair Report: Marlene reported a letter was sent from the council to the council chairs in the Gulf States offering our support. A letter was sent to the Governor and RSA regarding the emergency preparedness plan. Marlene received a response and is informed periodically about emergency preparedness plans. On behalf of the council, a note of appreciation was sent to counselors, center staff and field staff regarding the extraordinary number of positive employment outcomes. Met with the Executive Committee via teleconference to discuss the conflict of interest issue. Worked with the Consumer Satisfaction Survey Committee on changes to the survey.

Staff Report: Mindy reviewed the information in the packets. Allison and Veeta have been attending visioning forums across the state. Met with the group about developing a web page to post the voting record of legislators. Continue to work on obtaining council appointments. Worked on the recognition of council members planned for later today.

CAP, OVR, SILC, Other Issues: None

Executive Committee Report: Marlene reported the committee met this morning and discussed the proposed changes in the bylaws. The executive committee discussed changes in the bylaws. Legal counsel has reviewed the recommended changes. Marlene read the proposed change to add wording to Section 4. Conflict of Interest (document attached). **The committee recommends that the council approve the change.** It was noted that the information was not distributed to the council 10 days before the meeting for review. Tabled until first meeting of 2006. The committee reviewed nominations for the Partnership Award and **recommends that the Henderson County School System receive the award. Motion passed.** The appointments still have not been made. The committee feels that Executive Director Smith is doing her best to move the appointments along. **The committee recommends that Marlene write a letter to RSA stating that appointments have not been made and that OVR is out of compliance with federal law and that the delay in appointments is drastically affecting the council's ability to function and request that RSA contact the governor's office requesting that the appointments be made. Motion passed.**

Public Awareness/Legislative Committee Report: Jan report that there were two recommendations for the council to vote on. **The committee recommends that the council write a letter to support funding for Supported Employment (Long-term support). Motion passed.** The annual report is in the packet for the council to review. The report is in the form of a calendar. Jan complimented Jason on his work. If the council has any suggestions or recommendations, please get them to Jason as soon as possible. **The committee recommends giving Marlene the authority to give final approval to the annual report. Motion passed.**

Policy & Planning: Roland thanked committee members for their attendance. Roland reported that Brad Mills gave a presentation on Transition to the committee and answered several questions. The committee decided to move discuss of how to improve attendance at the ARC meetings and transition services until the March meeting. The committee reviewed and approved the new Self-employment policy and the new Eligibility Worksheet. A recommendation was made to add lack of childcare to the Attendant Factor Section of the Eligibility Worksheet. Allison reported that the agency would be reviewing the Drug/Alcohol policy for revisions. She will have recommendations from the Drug/Alcohol Team for review at the March meeting. Input from the visioning forums was shared with the committee. The information will be summarized and specific recommendations for changes will be shared with OVR's Leadership in January and implemented in the Strategic Plan.

Consumer Services/Program Evaluation Committee: Richard reported that the telephone survey has been shortened. The University of Kentucky Survey Center will complete the telephone calls by the end of the month. In this year's survey report, the Human Development Institute will include an analysis of comments received in the survey. HDI will also investigate writing a paper on Kentucky's experience with the satisfaction survey over the years. Since the longitudinal data indicates very little change in the results of the survey from year to year, the committee would like to augment the findings with a focus group on specific issues. Since the survey is shorter, this should result in a cost savings for the agency. The committee would like to request that the money saved be used to pay expenses for up to ten focus groups, depending the availability of funds. The committee has asked for further data on positive employment outcomes to better discern trends and their causes. Information will be provided at the next meeting.

Interagency Coordinating: Carl reported that there were three highlights from the meeting. 1. A presentation on Supported Employment by Carol Estes and Milton Tyree. 2. Discussed the need for facilitating the information among agencies. Mindy has developed template for agencies to use for reporting. Discussed other means of sharing information, i.e. may be an e-newsletter. 3. Recommend that a letter be drafted supporting funding for Supported Employment. This letter would be circulated to member agencies of the committee. After member agencies provide feedback on the draft, the letter would be forwarded on to the Governor and the General Assembly. The next meeting is scheduled for March 2.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Carl Metz provided a fact sheet and gave an update on BR 71. Carl made a motion that the council support BR71 that was seconded by Jan Day. There were concerns about supporting a bill before it has been finalized. Some council member stated that they would prefer waiting until they had the opportunity to review the entire bill. It was suggested that the executive committee be given the task of reviewing the bill and then recommend whether the council should support or not. Everyone agreed with the concept of the bill (providing job opportunities for individuals with disabilities). There was concern that when the bill is final, there may be changes/revisions that the council may not agree with. After much more discussion, **Jan Day called the question (seconded by Mattingly). Vote to call the question had one**

opposition. Question called. Vote on the motion to support the bill via letter passed unanimously.

The employer recognition ceremonies will be scheduled by the Executive Director January – March. There are two important rallies coming up in February. The 874K Advocacy rally is scheduled for February 16th and the Supported Employment rally is scheduled for February 15th. The South East National Rehabilitation Association Conference is being held in Louisville on May 1-3 at the Galt House. The next SCVR meeting will be March 20th. Meeting site will be determined and the council will be notified. The council will move forward with election of officers at the March meeting.

Meeting adjourned.